

TAILORED WALL THICKNESS AXLE BEAM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An axle assembly of this invention includes an axle beam having a top section, a bottom section and two side sections. The top and bottom sections are of a first thickness that is greater than the thickness of material comprising the two side sections. The thicknesses of each of the sections are tailored to carry expected loads. The top and bottom sections are the primary load bearing sections for loads exerted on the axle. Therefore, the top and bottom sections are of increased thickness and the side sections that encounter a reduced load are of a reduced thickness, providing a more efficient use of material.